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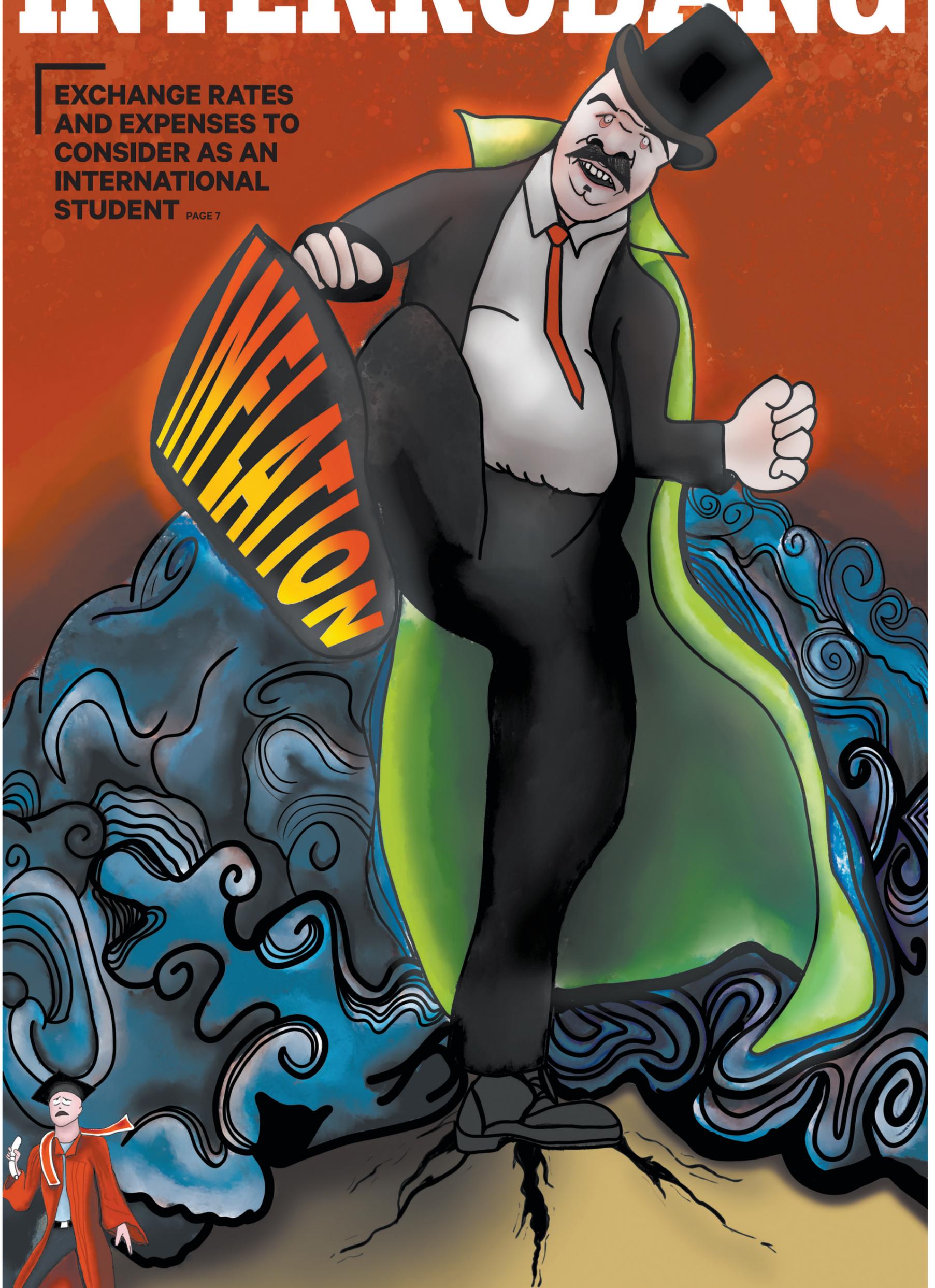
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**FROM THE EDITOR**  
 Hannah Theodore (she/her)

Dear readers,  
 Life is expensive. More expensive than it's ever been. Basic necessities like food, housing, and clothing are becoming more and more unattainable, and students are feeling the pinch.

High tuition fees and rising rent prices are making student life increasingly more difficult, often leaving students with no choice but to take on part-time jobs or borrow money. This high cost of living also leads to high levels of stress, especially for international students who pay up to three times the tuition of domestic students on top of the already costly endeavour of moving to a new country.

Our Finance Issue does not pretend to hold the answers to the current cost of living crisis, but it does hope to shed light on how it is impacting students. Our featured content explores how exchange rates catch international students off guard, how students use streaming sites like Twitch to make a little money on the side, and whether or not the question of renting or buying a home is still a question recent grads have to consider.

For money saving tips, check out Finch Neves' article on affordable cooking as a student, and Mia Rosa-Wayne's article on budgeting.

At a time when global tensions are at an all-time high, and when many students may be feeling the mental impact of these tensions, students should not have to be wondering where their next meal is coming from, or whether or not they'll be able to afford a roof over their heads. We hope this issue reminds students struggling that they are not alone, and that support, both financial and emotional, is available here at Fanshawe.

Sincerely,



Letters to the Editor: fsuleters@fanshawec.ca

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# MSA annual meeting focuses on Israel-Palestine conflict



**Gracia Espinosa (she/her)**  
INTERROBANG

On Oct. 25, an annual meeting convened, hosted by the Fanshawe College Muslim Students Association (MSA). Speaking to the Muslim students at Fanshawe, the event was also open to anyone who wanted to attend. The topic of the meeting was: *Are you a member of the Brotherhood of the Messenger of Allah?*

The President of the MSA, Mohammed Lateef, suggested this title because it would reflect how the Muslim community should deal with global, national, and local challenges. Among the issues discussed during the meeting was the current conflict in Gaza.

"We all have a responsibility to outreach to the world and share with them what justice is all about because there will be no peace without justice," explained Lateef.

Dr. Munir El Kasser, a visiting imam at several Islamic centres in

Ontario participated in the meeting and shared Lateef's sentiments.

"The conflict did not start on Oct. 7," Kasser said. "The conflict began 75 years ago, and some events added pressure on the people of Gaza, which is as big as the city of London. It has been termed the largest open-air prison in the world. And the people for 15 years were under siege, and they had no freedom to move or to get food or to get water."

For the past three weeks, there have been protests across various cities in Canada, including London, in support of the Palestinian people. On Oct. 22, thousands of Londoners gathered to urge the government to take action and bring about a ceasefire.

"There was a huge demonstration at the corner of Richmond and Central at Victoria Park, and more than 7,000 people participated. I can tell you plainly that those participating were not only Muslim. There were people from the Indigenous community, all walks of life, and from the Independent Jewish Voice group (IJV) too," Kasser explained.



CREDIT: MUSLIM STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF FANSHAWE COLLEGE (MSA)  
On Oct. 22, Muslim Students Association (MSA) hosted a meeting featuring Dr. Munir El Kasser.

Lateef addressed in this annual meeting the lack of impartiality by the media when, at these times, they should report and investigate so that the truth comes to light and no more of what he called genocide occurs.

The Vice-President of MSA, Eman Irfan, explained that

Islamophobia is four times higher right now because of a lack of awareness.

"We are concerned," Irfan said. "The killing of one human is like the killing of the whole of humanity. We do pray that this whole conflict resolves soon."

All the members of the MSA insist that they are trying their best to ensure their message is peace.

"It's not killing, it's not harming, it's not abusing, and it's not harassment," MSA coordinator, Ibrahim Birkawi said. "It's about peace. It's about togetherness."

# November is Shine the Light month in London



**Mauricio Prado (he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

On Oct. 20, The London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC) launched its 14th annual Shine the Light on Woman Abuse Campaign. This campaign aims to raise awareness of men's violence against women by turning buildings and landmarks purple for the month of November.

This initiative seeks to show support for women and girls who have been victims of human trafficking, exploitation, or violence from intimate partners.

During the campaign launch, honoree Cambria Harris, whose mother, alongside three other women were victims of a serial killer in Dec. 2022, shared her story.

"Four women were mercilessly stolen from our lives and families. That changed us forever," Harris said. "A serial killer lives in protected custody while my mother lays in a landfill. No landfill is a gravesite. It should never be a place for someone to get buried ever."

Harris said that this campaign helps by continuing to have these conversations and simply acknowledging that this is a "very real and raw reality" that women face in Canada.

"It is about looking past the story, the statistics and numbers and realizing that those are loved human beings with families who expect them to return home," Harris said.

Executive Director of LAWC, Jennifer Dunn, said that the campaign helps show women and girls that they are not alone and that any shame or blame they feel does not belong to them. Dunn added that the focus of



CREDIT: MAURICIO PRADO  
Members of the London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC) kicked off the annual Shine the Light campaign on Oct. 20.

the 2023 campaign shines a light on not only intimate partner violence but also the femicide experienced by missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-spirit people.

"Fanshawe students need to be able to have these types of conversations," Dunn said. "They need to know that there is help available when they need it and that they are believed."

Dunn said students need to understand they are not alone and that they do not deserve to be subjected to violence while they are going to school.

"It is essential for students because they need to know there is support available on campus, especially at Fanshawe," Dunn said.

Dunn said that 14 years ago when the campaign started, it was "very grassroots and small initially" but that it has grown over time.

"We knew that something needed to be done to continue the conversation and to raise awareness of the issues," Dunn said. "That is why every year, the campaign has become stronger."

She said that as the years have passed, it has grown substantially and that social media has helped significantly.

"We have seen it grow tremendously on social media. When we started, social media was not as big as now."

While Dunn said the campaign has made huge strides in awareness, she said it must go on to continue to the conversation.

"It needs to run year after year to continue having these conversations," Dunn said. "The more we do it, the more people we approach."

Dunn said that over the years, they have seen the federal and provincial governments get involved, which has helped to spread the word and more women to reach out.

Harris said that she hopes sharing her story helps inspire others to come out and share theirs.

"There are people out there who care and are willing to fight for you and to continue making those changes," Harris said.

# College to host blood drive due to shortages



**Mauricio Prado (he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

On Nov. 13, Canadian Blood Services will host a blood drive on the second floor of the Student Centre at Fanshawe College for students across campus and the community to attend and donate.

The need for blood is crucial as the Canadian Blood Services continue to experience a severely low inventory, the lowest it's ever been in over a decade, according to Canadian Blood Services Community Development Manager and Fanshawe College graduate, Elaine Keller.

"It is great that in my career now, I can work with the school to help save lives," Keller said. "The focus is to help support patients across Canada and London as our inventory has been at the lowest it has ever been."

Keller said that there are roughly 10 million people in Ontario who are eligible to donate blood.

"Over 140 hospitals in Ontario can receive more than 31,000 units of blood every month, about 7,400 weekly, thanks to the donors," Keller said. "We find that only a mere fraction of people donate. That is just about 1.5 per cent of the population."

According to Keller, more than 4,000 new blood donors are needed monthly in Ontario. She added that for London, they are looking for about 995 donors.

"We need about 370,000 units of blood in a year. Bringing these types of events on campus will allow us to fill the gap that we are currently experiencing."

Keller said that the blood will go to patients in need and patients who are fighting for their lives every day in hospitals. "You just never know who you could be helping. Life can change in seconds, and you or someone you

love may need blood urgently," Keller said. "There is no substitute for donated blood."

Keller stated that counting on blood supplies is a critical part of everyday medical care, including major surgeries, medical procedures, cancer treatment, and managing diseases and disorders. She added that there is a specific type of blood that doctors can always grab with "no thought" when it comes to an emergency.

"All blood types are very needed, but O negative can help all blood types," Keller said.

To consider if someone is eligible to donate blood, Canadian Blood Services has some things to check. Anyone can donate blood as long as they:

- Have not had a tattoo or piercing done in the last three months
- Have not travelled outside Canada or the continental USA in the last 12 months
- Weigh more than 110lbs
- Have not been pregnant or given birth in the last six months
- Have not been taking prescription medications
- have not had a cleaning or a filling in the last 24 hours or dental surgery in the previous 72 hours

"We also want to ensure everyone has had something salty to eat and 500mL of water to drink before donating," Keller said. "Community members must be over the age of 17 to donate."

Keller said she encourages students to visit their London permanent location, which is open six days a week at 820 Wharnclyffe Rd. S.

"The blood donation process is fast; we have seen a record time of five minutes," Keller said.

For more eligibility information or to book an appointment, students can call 1-888-236-6283 or visit the website blood.ca.



Marlee Liss talked at Fanshawe about her experience as a survivor of sexual assault and her experience with restorative justice.

CREDIT: GRACIA ESPINOSA

## Sexual assault survivor Marlee Liss visits Fanshawe



**Gracia Espinosa (she/her)**  
INTERROBANG

**Trigger warning: This story includes specific details pertaining to sexual assault.**

On Oct. 19, Fanshawe College hosted speaker, somatic educator, and author Marlee Liss. The Jewish feminist, who identifies as lesbian, made history in North America as the first survivor of sexual assault to participate in a restorative justice process.

Restorative justice means that Liss chose to confront her rapist in an eight-hour circle with the support of her family, her lawyer, Jeff Carolin, and Crown counsel, Cara Sweeny.

This story started in 2016 when Liss was a social work student. She was on the dance team and had just returned from an adventurous summer when she was out partying one night in August.

"I hit that point where I think, 'OK, I'm tired, I'm drunk, I want to go home.' I started looking for my friend but didn't see her. I text her, text her again. Call her; nothing. So, I'm looking around at this point, and this is when this guy comes up to me," Liss explained in her talk to students at Alumni Lounge.

Liss said the man assisted her in hailing a taxi, revealing that he resided in the same condominium complex as her friend, where she was planning to spend the night. When they arrived, Liss couldn't find her friend to let her into the unit, so the defendant invited her for a glass of water.

"A moment later, he returns, pulls my pants down, and starts assaulting

me. And I quickly say, 'No, I'm not in the mood,' you know, thinking of things we learned and [are] supposed to say at that moment. And I realize it's not working, and it's this terrifying moment where I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, my voice is not doing anything.'"

According to Liss, the assault lasted until the sun rose.

When she came out of shock, she took her things and returned home. Liss told her roommate what happened, and they went to the hospital. She subsequently filed a report.

It wasn't until 2018 that she got a call for a preliminary trial.

After five hours in court, Liss felt that the steps she had taken in her healing were 300 steps back. And she started again to focus on her survival, stating that's all she really could do.

In 2019, she was subpoenaed for a criminal trial, meaning there was enough evidence to go forward.

Liss was determined to drop the charges because she believed she wouldn't be able to stop her attacker from doing it again. For that reason, she started seeking another solution. "When I found restorative justice and saw that it had a lineage that Indigenous-Jewish Mennonite communities had been doing this for thousands of years, that there are so many survivors who share these wounds, that was a deeply validating and affirming thing," Liss said.

Before convening the justice circle, the offender had undergone months of therapy.

"He turned to me with, like, 'I feel such a deep, embodied sense of remorse,' tears in his eyes and heart, and said, 'I'm sorry I sexually assaulted you. There's nothing I can do to take it back. And I hope that being here today can help.' And

to some people, they might be like, 'That's not enough. Those are just words.' But I think we're so trained to turn towards the person and cause harm and try to find adequate punishment. But in doing so, we often neglect the survivor completely."

After that, Liss dropped the sexual assault charge against her attacker.

The experience has led her to devote herself wholeheartedly to sharing her testimony and helping other survivors heal.

"We want to share our stories, certainly not all, and there's no obligation to. But so many of us have a deep want to. And so much research shows that healing often comes from making meaning of that. So, being able to speak like this. It's equally healing for me. It's equally empowering for me."

After the talk, Liss held a training session for counsellors at Fanshawe. Fanshawe's sexual violence prevention advisor, Leah Marshall said the type of healing that Liss advocates for is highly beneficial for students at Fanshawe.

"We need to hear directly from survivors about their experiences and the care and healing they'd like to see moving forward. And [Liss] advocates for choice-based services, and that's what we try to provide," Marshall said.

Marshall reminded students who have been impacted by gender-based violence and want to know their options to seek professional support through counselling and accessibility services at Fanshawe College.

"We do have survivor support within our office. So, if anyone is curious about their own healing journey and want to connect for support, please contact us at," Marshall added.

## Fanshawe grad receives CAFA nomination



**Gracia Espinosa (she/her)**  
INTERROBANG

On Oct. 14, the annual Canadian Arts and Fashion Awards (CAFA) gala was held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Brooke Lynn Hytes, the first Canadian competitor on *RuPaul's Drag Race* hosted the event.

Jacqueline Bradica, a 30-year-old recent graduate of Fanshawe College's fashion design program, was among the nominees for the Fashion Design Student Award category. Although they did not win the contest, Bradica was very happy to have been one of the six nominated students and to have been able to attend such an exclusive contest.

"It was amazing to be there, to attend this event, and it makes me feel like a winner, even if I didn't receive the award itself," Bradica said. "It felt amazing to know that other industry professionals recognized my work."

To participate in the Fashion Design Student category, academic institutions across Canada must nominate candidates, so in the case of Fanshawe College, two fashion design students were chosen who met the requirements to participate in the competition.

Bradica submitted their portfolio in June, and two months later, when Bradica was visiting their family, they received news of the nomination.

"I opened Instagram, and I saw that they started announcing all the nominees for all the categories. And I was like, 'Okay, like, let's see it.'"

And they posted the student one, and my name was there, and it was a bit surreal to see my name there," Bradica explained.

However, they said, it has been a long journey to get here.

"I lived in northern Ontario, and it was challenging. There are no schools up there that teach anything like that. And when it came time for me to go to university, I couldn't afford to go away for university or college. And I went into a different field for a while," Bradica said.

During the pandemic, Bradica decided to pursue their true calling, fashion.

"I moved to southern Ontario after making some money and stuff, and I decided to sign up for the fashion design program here. So, I came back as a mature student, which is hard enough."

After their nomination, Bradica feels they made the right decision and is now excited to begin their career in fashion, where they are committed to sustainable creations that everyone can wear.

"I do gender-inclusive clothing that has explicitly sustainability in mind. So, I dabble a lot with zero-waste pattern-cutting techniques. And I do a lot of like sourcing dead stock fabrics and that thing. But I like the challenge of working with zero waste," Bradica said.

Bradica said they're grateful for how CAFA has helped them to make their work known as a designer.

"I did meet people there, and I'm now linked up with them in different ways, like through social media, LinkedIn, and many things. So, it's expanded my network a lot. I met a lot of other designers, and I met some models. Those connections can go a long way over time."



CREDIT: COURTESY OF JACQUELINE BRADICA

Jacqueline Bradica was one of the six nominees for the Fashion Design Student Award at the Canadian Arts and Fashion Awards (CAFA).

# Midterm season not the time for tuition invoices



**Konstantinos Drossos (he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

Finances are one of the many things that stress students out, both domestic and international. In Canada, post-secondary education comes at a price.

As young adults, we take on a lot of financial responsibility. Necessary factors like rent, food, and utilities eat up what little money we've saved from our time working in the off-season of school. In a post-COVID world, inflation has not been making life any easier. At the time of writing this article, the interest rate has increased to five per cent due to inflation, according to the Bank of Canada.

Since the time of transitioning from high school to college, I've been trying to be financially independent, paying what bills I can as an active student. By the end of summer, a good portion of the money I made has been put towards my Fanshawe tuition, for just the fall semester.

I received an email with an invoice and a payment deadline in regards to the winter semester in the middle of October. I get that these notices are reminders that the due dates for these fees are coming up, but I was generally annoyed with the fact that I had received it when we are still two months out from the start of the winter term, and currently in the midst of midterm exams.

On top of all this, I applied for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and was told by the government that my funds were going to be released past the expected due date that Fanshawe had stated. When informing the Office of the Registrar and the college's financial department, I was reassured by both departments that I would not be charged any late fees. This turned out not to be true as I then received an additional amount on top of what was due in what was labeled as "late fees" even though I had no outstanding balances before school started.



CREDIT: PROSTOCK-STUDIO

Educational institutions need to be considerate of when they release invoices and to be lenient with students as they don't know their financial situations outside of school.

This time of year is not the time to be receiving notices about paying for tuition. For many students, midterms mean stress is at an all-time high and we don't need to see a statement with four digits staring back at us during this time.

Many friends of mine who are international students have complained about having to scramble to pay for their tuition in

early October, with tuition amounts as high as \$12,000 dollars. Having to write to their native country bank in need of a student loan as soon as possible to meet the due date adds unneeded pressure when the stress of having to pay a late fee is unforgiving.

I believe the College needs to keep in mind that, as students, we are juggling many things

during the year and that maybe scheduling the release of tuition invoices should be at a more fitting and appropriate time frame, like over the Christmas break. By taking factors, like students' mental health, into consideration, it saves many from headaches caused by hounding and stressful invoices.

# Pinching pennies never tasted so good



**Finch Neves (he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

When I first started college in 2019, I quickly realized that the money I had set aside would not make it as far as I had thought. It turns out, everything costs money. Laundry detergent, the bus to school, and band-aids were all things my original budget didn't account for. With so many unexpected expenses, I was forced to cut other areas by as much as half, one of which was food.

I had originally planned to spend \$50 a week on food, but suddenly that was \$25. With great reluctance, I accepted my future of ramen noodles and nutritional deficits, but I couldn't have been more wrong. Over the following year, I developed a variety of filling and nutritious meals that were easily under four dollars for a few portions.

When eating on a budget, experimentation and adventurous eating changes from a choice to a necessity. I firmly believe that being a picky eater is a luxury born from circumstance that can be undone by sheer willpower and the courage to laugh in the face of abject danger. This fish was poisonous? Good, I was hoping for a challenge.

Adventurous eating doesn't mean you can't account for allergies or dietary restrictions. In fact, the recipe I am about to share with you

is vegetarian. Listen, I love it too, but meat is expensive, and some meat alternatives are so good that you won't even miss it in most dishes. The environmental benefits are well worth noting too.

The dish I want to tell you about today is such a mishmash of culinary cuisines that it borders on absurdity. It is mouth-wateringly spicy, deeply indulgent, and healthy to top it all off. Due to its culturally varied inspirations, it may require some ingredients you are not familiar with.

You will need Indian paneer cheese, Korean gochujang, and Chinese rice wine vinegar. Most of these can be easily found at the average grocery store, but feel free to experiment and replace them with anything you want. That is sort of the nature of eating on a budget in and of itself and I heavily encourage getting creative.

**Instructions:**

1. Cube and slice 300 grams of paneer to your desired size before salting it.
2. Mix 3 tablespoons of gochujang with 1 cup of warm water and 1 tablespoon of rice wine vinegar before setting to the side. (Optional: add 2 tablespoons of soy sauce, 1 tablespoon of sesame oil, and 1 teaspoon of miso paste).
3. Dice one small onion and mince two cloves of garlic.
4. Chop cilantro and spinach into desired sizes.
5. Preheat a pan on your stovetop. Using medium high heat, heat 1 tablespoon



CREDIT: FINCH NEVES

By being adventurous and creative, you can discover a world of flavours without breaking the bank.

6. When the final side of the paneer is being browned, add your onion to the pan and sauté for an additional minute before turning the heat down to medium and adding the garlic and a pinch of Chinese five spice powder. Continuing to sauté.
  7. Once the garlic has developed some colour and the spices have become fragrant, remove the pan from the heat and deglaze with sake (stock, white wine, or water will also work), making sure that nothing has remained stuck to the pan.
  8. Return the pan to medium heat and add the thinned gochujang mixture, making sure not to allow it to stick to the pan
  9. Cook until the desired thickness is reached, or make a slurry of cornstarch and water to thicken it.
  10. Turn off the heat and add the spinach one minute prior to serving and the cilantro at the final moment.
- Serve the final dish on a bed of fragrant steamed rice, or on toasted corn tortillas for a taco with a deep, rich body and bright acidic notes. I frequently serve it with a light crema consisting of sour cream, lime juice, cilantro and chili oil, ideally homemade.

# Grief & Eugenics: An Ableist Horror Story, Part Six



**Adam D. Kearney**  
(he/they)  
CONTRIBUTION

*This article is Part Six in a series of excerpts from Fanshawe grad Adam D. Kearney's essay, Grief & Eugenics: An Ableist Horror Story.*

STUART, EVERETT & JONAS

Dating with disability is a fucking nightmare and it has only gotten worse in the age of dating apps. As I mentioned already, it played a crucial role in my disassociation from my disability and the disabled community. I felt that the less people saw me as the disabled stereotype the more worthy of love I became. Back in the day, the young curious pervert that I was would stay up late to watch *Sex with Sue* (a Canadian institution for my generation) and whatever sex education program was on the Discovery Channel late at night (in hopes of seeing some nudity). Yes, I did see lots of flesh, but I also accidentally learned some sociology too. Lessons like, masculine folks find red lipstick attractive because it mimicked feminine arousal. Feminine folks find physical fitness attractive because it went back to a primitive desire to be cared for in some prehistoric time. I also learned that connected to this there is an innate desire to pass along the best genes possible. This information reinforced my internalized ableism—why would anyone want my faulty mutated genetic strains?

All that being said, I did manage to have relationships. They were few and far between. Looking back now I am sure I was projecting my self-hatred outwards just as much as I was inwards, only scaring folks off. That, mixed with my desire to be loved and not feeling worthy of love, led to some pretty toxic attachment behaviours. Not to mention the boat loads of anxiety and depression that came with it.

In the fall of 2010, I had gone through a messy breakup. A relationship which I knew was doomed from the start but I had managed to latch onto until the absolute bitter end. Nursing my broken heart over a pint (or 10) with my roommate at our neighbourhood pub became a habit. We had started to hit trivia nights there as an excuse to go out on a Monday night and this is where I first met Jolene (not her real name). She was at the table next to us with a friend and after striking up a conversation we hit it off. It was a connection that slowly grew over a month. I had a terrible mustache growing for Movember and she had mentioned how much she hated mustaches. I already had a truck load of baggage and reasons in my mind why she would shoot me down. I waited until Dec. 1, after I shaved, to ask her out on a date. She said yes, coffee was had, and finally a crush turned into a like, and eventually a like into love.

Jolene lived a block away from me and because I had a roommate and she lived alone, we spent most of our time at her place. Her place wasn't accessible and was too small to

really get my wheelchair into, let alone make any use of it. As our relationship continued to grow, so did my physical mobility. I eventually got to the point where I was walking around unassisted, free from my cane and walker. For the first time in my life I was free of an assistive device, and boy did my internalized ableism love that. The distance between me and my disability continued to grow. Things were really looking up, until one day about eight months into our relationship she dropped a bombshell, "I don't think I can be in a relationship with a person with a disability." The shockwave of hearing these words took my breath away.

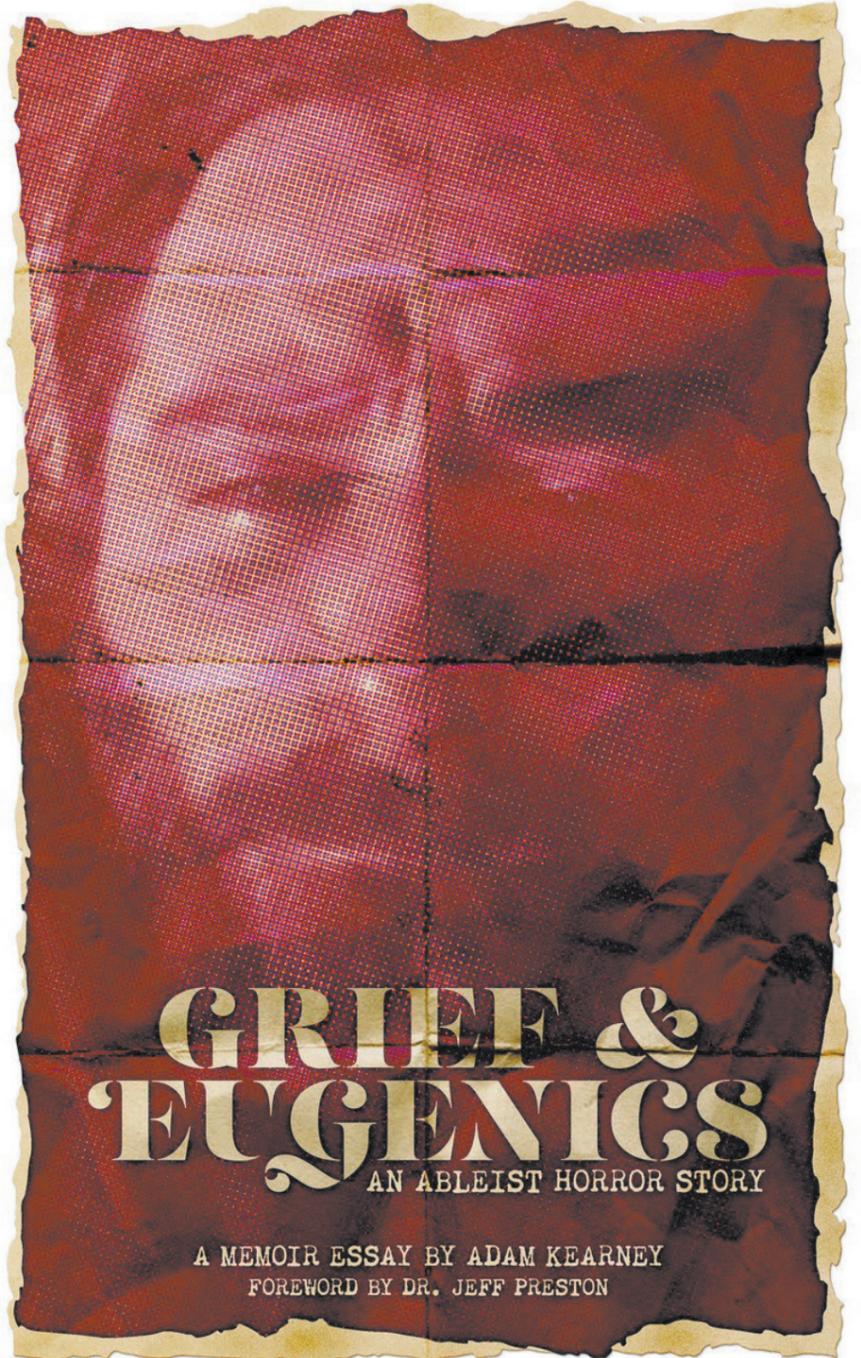
Through all my experiences dating, or more accurately "trying" to date, I had never had anyone actually say they couldn't be with me because of my disability. Sure, I kind of figured behind some of the "I think I would rather just be friends" statements was some lurking ableism, but I had kind of gotten used to just hearing no and not trying to decipher it any further.

After a quick head shake, I collected myself from the initial shock of having been told I was potentially unlovable due to my disability and went on the defensive. I did everything I could to diminish my disability. Whatever I couldn't alleviate I placed squarely on my shoulders as my responsibility and not hers. After all it was *my* disability, and not hers. My position seemed to be winning her over.

Our discussion turned to starting a family. She felt that with her job requiring her to be on call and there was the potential that my disability would leave me unable to care for an infant with the same disability. The logistics of it seemed impossible to her. Again, I went on the defensive and said that there were many ways around this: adoption, prenatal genetic screening and in vitro fertilization were all options. I certainly didn't see the value in passing on something that had already created so much grief in my life. Our highly emotional discussion went long into the night, we had both shed a lot of tears. In the end she wanted to give it some consideration before coming to a decision. I wheeled home sad and frustrated at 3 a.m.

The next day, after getting no sleep at all, Jolene invited me back to finish our conversation. She wasn't ready to give up on what we had and so we decided to take things one step at a time. We both came back to the relationship with renewed energy. We kept up a slow and steady momentum and within the year we got our first place, a dog (Pogue) and a dishwasher together. Things were going better than I imagined, only I hadn't realized the burden I had taken on with the concessions I made in our discussion. A constant anxiety began to build in me: should my disability ever present itself in an overbearing way the relationship would be over and once again I would be an unlovable misfit. I always found a stiff drink would really help melt away that anxiety.

Now that we had our own space we started taking the family discussions more and more seriously. We decided that we were trying



CREDIT: ADAM D. KEARNEY

Dating with a disability can be a nightmare.

to start a family without disability. Being so detached from anything disability related for so long I didn't comprehend just how toxic that statement was. We talked through all of our options. Though we weren't against adoption, we both really preferred the idea of having a child of our own as that was what our friends and family around us were doing. It came down to two options — both involving genetic testing. One was doing in vitro fertilization (IVF). This would involve doing genetic testing just a few days after the cells had started dividing. Then implanting an embryo that didn't have my faulty genetics, or as the lab called them

"viable embryos." However this option cost a lot of money which we didn't have an abundance of. We ended up deciding to take the other option. This was getting pregnant the old-fashioned way and then doing prenatal testing around 15 weeks into the pregnancy. We would then make the decision to continue on with the pregnancy or end it.

*To be continued...*

*This memoir essay was published as a zine in Jan. 2023. If you enjoy it and feel you would like to support the author, you can find a pay what you can PDF or purchase a physical copy at [handcutcompany.com](http://handcutcompany.com).*



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# EXCHANGE RATES AND EXPENSES TO CONSIDER BEFORE COMING TO CANADA



Mauricio Prado (he/him) | Interrobang

**H**igh exchange rates add a financial crunch to international students, but knowing what to expect and how to handle it can help. Knowing the exchange rate against other currencies could play a key part in study abroad decisions for international students.

“When I came to Canada from Brazil, the currency exchange between the Brazilian Real and the Canadian Dollar was a big and confusing problem,” said Fanshawe international student Pedro Gomez. “I ended up getting less exchange than I expected. Thankfully I found a job quickly, which helped me recover, but it was a worrying situation for me.”

Gisela Somoza, a Fanshawe international student from El Salvador, had a similarly confusing experience with her student loan.

“El Salvador’s currency is the US dollar, so the exchange rate worked in my favour. The bad thing is that I overpaid the semester because I did not know how exactly the currency exchange worked,” Somoza said.

Somoza stated it was a “confusing and overwhelming situation” for her with all the exchange fees.

Fanshawe International Student Engagement Manager Emily Low said that every international student goes through this at some point and in different variations. She said the best way for students to avoid getting impacted by the exchange rate is to use Fanshawe’s resources and research ahead to understand how the currency exchange and fees will affect them.

“Most people do not realize how impactful the currency exchange rate is on large sums of money,” Low said.

Low stated that students can visit the Government of Canada’s website to know how the currency exchange rate compares to their country. She added that the Fanshawe website and Google are helpful tools for understanding tuition, rent, and living costs.

Yohanna Cardenas, a Fanshawe international student from Colombia, had a different experience since she travelled to Canada with her husband and daughter.

“We as a family tried to bring all our money and savings to Canada, which in the Colombian Peso, was a significant amount, but when we came to Canada, we realized it was not as significant as we thought with all the exchange rates and fees,” Cardenas said.

Low said that sometimes this situation depends on where they come from because some currencies get more affected than others. Low also stated that Fanshawe has resources to help lower the impact of those situations and help to make the currency transition smoother.

“Depending on where you are coming from, an online session will be held in that country for those students to go and ask those questions. Some of those sessions are offered in the language spoken in that country. There are in-person, in-country meetings for students, too,” Low said.

She said that students could also contact or go to the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) since they have a student life coordinator and a finance coordinator who can help them with financial literacy.

“They can often take the time to do online sessions or sit down with the student and explain the difference or even budget what resources are available out there depending on the student’s situation,” Low said.

Low said that the currency exchange impact is inevitable for every international student, but it can be reduced noticeably with the proper tools and guidance.

“Reach out and do some research. Find out how much it costs to live and how much money is your basic rent. Read the program specifications to check if your bus pass is included in your tuition.”



# RENT OR BUY?

## IS THAT STILL THE QUESTION?

### Dee-Dee Samuels (she/her) | Interrobang

As a college student living in dorms or shared accommodations, you may look forward to a time when you embark on the next phase of your life and begin to think about home ownership. I guarantee somewhere looming in the back of your mind is a list of milestones to be accomplished as young adults and buying a house is probably high on that list.

Canute Demello, a former hotel management student who is currently employed in a supervisory role at Fanshawe's Chef's Table restaurant has a goal of one day being able to purchase a home of his own here in Canada.

"I don't want to pay rent to someone else to basically pay their mortgage," Demello said. "If it is my house, I know I paid for it by myself, and that house is mine."

But home ownership is still out of reach for many recent grads making renting a more financially feasible option. For some, renting may also be preferable to owning.

Paul Sery, a London homeowner, recently decided that for him, renting had more benefits.

"With owning a house, there is no peace of mind. You are worrying about mortgage rates, needing a new roof or furnace. You are stuck there if you hate your neighbours. With renting nothing is your problem regarding repairs or other issues. When I was young working towards my first home was everything, but hopefully young people don't feel that way anymore."

Still, statistics released by the Canadian Real Estate Association show national home sales consistently growing. Clearly there is still plenty of interest in home ownership in Canada.

### THE BENEFITS OF BUYING

When renting, all your outgoings and bills are simply expenses. They do not build equity for you over time.

When you own a home, part of your expenses are expenses and some are mortgage repayments, which are an investment. It's also currently a great time to buy, as according to the Market Report published on [nesto.ca](https://www.nesto.ca), the average home in London was priced at \$621,912 in 2023, decreasing by a whopping 24 per cent from previous years.

The entire London market is down compared with the rest of the province. More houses are being built and purchase prices are dropping according to data taken from London and St. Thomas Association of Realtors and Canadian Real Estate Association.

### THE BENEFITS TO RENTING

1. Avoiding maintenance costs: Equal to roughly one per cent of property value each year.
2. No property tax: This can be a major expenditure.
3. No interest payments: Currently very high and predicted to increase.
4. No fees for realtors, closing costs or solicitors: depending on where you live, these costs can average between two to three per cent of the cost of the property.



We have been brought up believing that getting on the property market is the wise move. We live in a society that covets that notion.

To make the renting vs buying debate a little easier to navigate, here is one way of calculating the price-to-rent ratio and work out whether it's more feasible for you as a young person to take the plunge and get on the property market or not. Take the price of the property you are thinking of buying and divide that number by the annual rent of that same property. If the number you get is between one and 15, it's suggested that it is more in your best interest to buy than rent. If that number is above 21, then it is highly recommended that you rent instead of buy.

For example, if you are planning to buy a condo for \$800,000 but you can rent that same property for \$2,800/month, the calculation would be: \$800,000 divided by \$33,623.80 (2,800 x 12 months) which comes out over 23.35. This calculation would suggest it's better to rent than buy. It's a great goal to own a property as an investment, but only if it makes sense financially. There is nothing worse than when a material item owns you more than you own it. You can't put a price on freedom.



# WHY YOU SHOULD START INVESTING AS A STUDENT



## Konstantinos Drossos (he/him) | Interrobang

Growing up, I was always told by my elders to save up my money and be careful with it. Those same people later recommended that I start investing. I didn't know anything about investing but gave it some thought.

After paying my regular bills and some small leisurely expenses, I had some money left over. I decided I was going to give investing a try. I didn't know a lot about investing but knew it would be a good option for the future after graduating.

It starts with a simple question: Why should students invest their money? Investing money creates opportunities and teaches a lot when it comes to decision making. Being smart with money is an important skill to have as we get older, and during the time of being a student, it's the perfect opportunity to learn the pros and cons of it.

Before making a big decision, it's crucial to understand the *why* of making the investment and what purpose the investment will fill, as well as the financial risks that are at stake. Bradely Bishop, professor of finance at the Lawrence Kinlin School of business, stresses these factors for investors to consider before taking the next step.

"Students may be saving for many reasons, such as for the purchase of a car, or even to start a business in the future," Bishop said. "Understanding the purpose behind your investment, the time horizon you are saving for, and your comfort level with risk, are three initial factors to consider before investing. After that, it makes sense to review the characteristics of an investment and risks to determine if it is suitable for what you are trying to achieve."

The idea is to be frugal and know what you have to work with, what will come in the long run of investing, as well as to manage a portfolio as a beginner.



"Investing offers opportunities to build wealth which can be important at any stage of life. There are many different types of investments and it is important to obtain personalized advice to determine what type of investment is most suitable for you," Bishop said.

Starting off, it's always recommended to consult with a financial advisor and get guidance as well as a sense for what you're looking for. This way, you're able to get a much clearer forecast as to how the investment will progress over time.

When being told that you can gain something out of investing, it's important to know what it looks like and how it functions when looking at numbers and charts that document the process.

"Investing can make your money work for you due to the power of compound growth over time," Bishop explained. "This may allow your savings to outpace inflation so that future purchasing power can be maintained or improved. In addition, gaining some knowledge about, and experience with, investing at a young age can be beneficial for a lifetime. There are many ways to learn more about investing."

Once you understand how the system operates, the next phase of investing is to look at the various services available for you to utilize and make your money work for you, one notable one being a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). TFSAs are a type of savings account that allows people to store money all while it's sheltered from tax.

Whether it's for saving money or investing, TFSAs are known for their flexibility and overall tax exemption, which makes them popular among students. According to Statistics Canada, over 15.3 million Canadians utilize TFSA accounts.

What makes this so convenient for students is the ability to set aside a portion of their income and deposit it into the account allowing it to grow over a period of time. If need be, you can still withdraw money from it whenever you please. The government allows up to \$6,500 to be in the account.

The stock market is another method of investing, but the overall risk is quite high if you go in guns-a-blazing. The over-amounting fees and taxes are also likely too



much for a student to handle. That is where Mutual Funds and ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) give a student investor a taste of purchasing shares in the market, but with little tax and reduced risk.

"Every investor is different. Individuals have unique goals, objectives and tolerance for risk so there is no one-size-fits-all investment solution," Bishops said. "Generally speaking though, someone getting started with investing can often benefit from professionally-managed, well diversified mutual funds or ETFs instead of trying to pick individual stocks on their own. These products help reduce the risk of being concentrated in one particular stock, sector or industry."

Mutual Funds are essentially like a basket full of diverse assets, where investors pool all their money together. What makes this method so ideal for students is diversification which makes it low cost. Both ETFs and Mutual Funds allow the investor to choose and align where they allocate their money by choosing from numerous different funds, which allows them to meet their personal investing goals.

ETFs function similarly to Mutual Funds but are less expensive to own and the investor needs to purchase the funds themselves.

As a student investing, it's crucial to know how much money you want to invest, where you want to put it, and the risk factor you're taking on with the investment. When thought out and properly managed, you can profit a lot from the returns and use that money to help pay off outstanding debt, like student loans.

# Using twitch as a side hustle while in COLLEGE



Alex Allan (he/him) | Interrobang

It can be stressful balancing school and work life as a student. Many students live paycheque to paycheque. If you are a gamer like me, you can use Twitch to your advantage to earn a bit of money on the side while still enjoying some time gaming.

Twitch is a streaming platform where you can capture the video game you are playing and broadcast it live for others to watch. Twitch also allows you to chat with others through messages and to respond to the audience watching you play, either through a message back or over your microphone on your livestream. You don't have to be the next Pokimane or xQc streamer to do this and there are a few simple steps to get towards becoming a Twitch Affiliate.

First off, the biggest piece to keep in mind is that becoming an affiliate won't come overnight. It will take some time to achieve Twitch's requirements. These steps include reaching 50 followers, streaming for eight hours, streaming on seven different days and having an average of three viewers. You must meet all four requirements over a 30-day period to qualify as an affiliate. This might seem daunting at first, but it is achievable. If you are playing video games for a couple hours every evening to relieve some stress from either school or work, then you can easily start up a stream at the same time while you are gaming away.

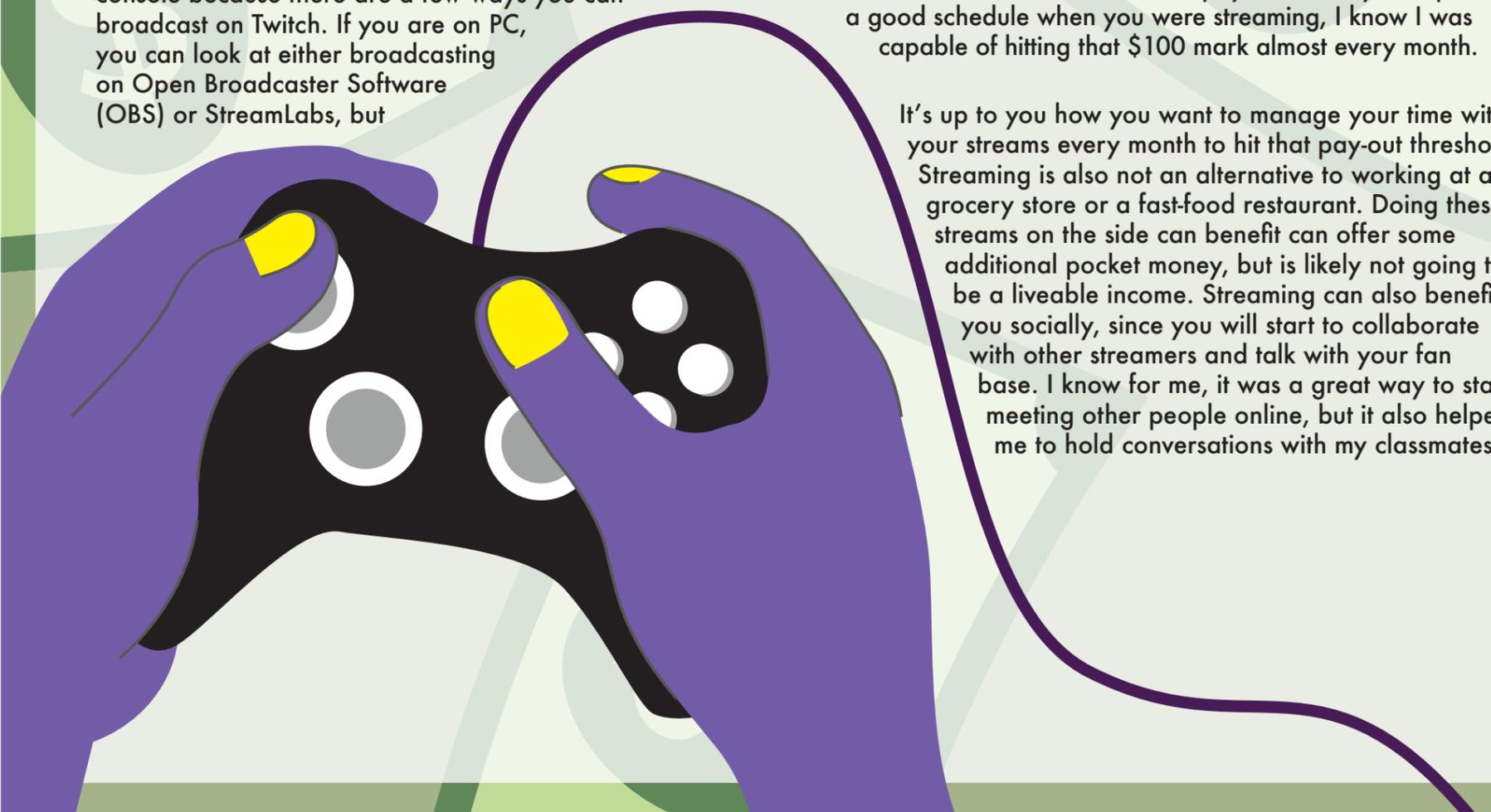
The tricky part is where and how to broadcast your streams. This will differ if you are playing from a PC or a console because there are a few ways you can broadcast on Twitch. If you are on PC, you can look at either broadcasting on Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) or StreamLabs, but

there are others you can choose from. OBS might not be the most user-friendly software out there but it allows you to be creative with how you want your streams to look. StreamLabs on the other hand, allows you to buy premade graphics that you can use for your streams to help gain attention on your livestreams. If you are on the console, Twitch allows you to stream right from their application, but you will not have the capabilities that the PC platforms offer. This would be trying to interact with your viewers as well as making graphics but it also might make your game run a bit slower on the console since you are trying to livestream at the same time.

After sorting out PC vs. console, it comes down to dedication. Don't be discouraged if the first time you stream, only one viewer shows up. The more you broadcast your streams, the more people will start to become interested in who you are. Another thing is to not be afraid to tell your parents, friends, colleagues, or even that person you might have sat beside on the bus that you saw watching a livestream on Twitch about your channel. Any viewers help.

Once you meet all the requirements Twitch is asking for, then you will receive an email that will help sort out all the required papers for them to start paying you. Now you won't consistently be handed the money from every stream you do after this though. According to Twitch, the pay-out is the 15th of every month but you must reach the minimum \$50 pay-out threshold first. Twitch changed the threshold from \$100 to \$50 in July 2022. Back when I was streaming consistently, \$100 was the minimum threshold of the pay-out and if you kept a good schedule when you were streaming, I know I was capable of hitting that \$100 mark almost every month.

It's up to you how you want to manage your time with your streams every month to hit that pay-out threshold. Streaming is also not an alternative to working at a grocery store or a fast-food restaurant. Doing these streams on the side can benefit can offer some additional pocket money, but is likely not going to be a liveable income. Streaming can also benefit you socially, since you will start to collaborate with other streamers and talk with your fan base. I know for me, it was a great way to start meeting other people online, but it also helped me to hold conversations with my classmates.



# Filing **INCOME TAX** as an international student in **Canada**



**Zoë Alexandra King (she/her) | Interrobang**

**F**iling income tax can sound intimidating if you've never done it before and don't know where to begin. Moving to a new country takes time, navigating your new surroundings and getting acquainted with provincial laws. This article features a retired accountant and accounting firm owner, Joe Bettencourt (CPA, CGA, MBA, CPA - Delaware), who explained some of the common questions international students may have in regards to filing their taxes.

Firstly, what does it mean to file taxes in Canada? Canadian tax returns are the mandatory forms that must be submitted to the Canada Revenue Authority (CRA) each year for anyone earning an income in Canada.

Whilst this is true, Bettencourt explained that international students should file a tax return yearly whether they are working part-time, full-time, or not working at all. The reason for this is because students may be eligible for "various tax credits," where the CRA will send a refund.

To file an income tax return there are a few options you can use:

- **A tax preparation software such as TurboTax**
- **Hire an accountant to do it for you**
- **File yourself**

Bettencourt warned that the third option can come with potential consequences.

"The biggest risk in filing taxes on your own, is not knowing all the tax rules, benefits, and deductions they may be entitled to," said Bettencourt. "As a result, they may lose out on substantial refunds and future benefits."

One of the suggestions Bettencourt gave for students who wish to file their taxes on their own, is to familiarize themselves with the taxation rules in order to receive the full benefits offered.

Most international students in Canada have the hope of applying for status post-graduation. Students may question of whether or not having your taxes filed

correctly will have an impact on the application process for permanent residency.

"I think that filing a tax return shows that you recognize the importance of complying with the tax laws," said Bettencourt. "But most importantly, it could demonstrate that you may have relevant work or job experience in your specific field."

If filing your taxes can potentially give you back money and also potentially help with the process of obtaining permanent residency, why not do it?

One of the tips that Bettencourt gave for international students filing taxes was to make sure all documentation such as tax receipts, medical, donations, earnings information, rent receipts, tuition receipts, and others, are retained as it may be needed in the return.

"Filing a tax return in addition to the benefits stated above would immediately start accumulating your earnings to qualify for Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) deductions in the future, and possibly Canada Pension Plan (CPP) in future years should one become a permanent resident," said Bettencourt.

The last day to file taxes is on Tax Day, which is usually the last day of April. Once students gather all the necessary documents to file, they can. It is important for students to remember that there are services offered such as the Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) tax clinics held by the Fanshawe Accounting Association, that can assist in any taxation questions.



# VENUExVENUE promotes local talent and economic growth in London



**Mauricio Prado**  
(he/him)  
INTERROBANG

From Nov. 9 to 11, London will host VENUExVENUE as part of Indie Week, a multi-venue live music festival featuring top emerging London region artists.

"The event's purpose is and will always be to support venues and local artists," said VENUExVENUE founder Darryl Hurs. "The importance of events like this is building economy locally."

Hurs said this event supports the local economy by bringing people outside the city to experience and support local businesses and talent. Over 40 artists will be performing across three days, with an expected 1,000 people at each show. Rum Runners, Richmond Tavern, Fitzroy's Restaurant and Lounge, Poacher's Arms, and London Music Hall will all host shows.

"More money brought into the city fosters economic prosperity and creates new opportunities," Hurs said.

Hurs said the support has been good so far, with many local businesses reaching out to them and participating. He added that the power of community, collaboration, and helping each other makes this event historically remarkable.

"It is through education, connection and collaboration that we can build new opportunities and prosper towards a sustainable career," Hurs said.

He added that he gets excited to hear what doors have opened for the local artists and their experiences after each event.



CREDIT: TYRONE TRAHER II

VENUExVENUE supports the local economy by bringing people outside the city to experience and support local businesses and talent.

"When you can provide a real positive space for artists and local businesses, it is incredible what they can do. That is what we try to provide," Hurs said.

Fanshawe music industry arts (MIA) graduate and artist Asante Deluy said he is grateful to be selected to participate, support and perform in London.

"A part of me was created here in London, my career started here," Deluy said. "I want to impact and inspire people doing what I love the most."

Deluy said this is a big opportunity and a "substantial jump

forward" in his career as an artist. He added that he has met a lot of MIA students and colleagues through events and such opportunities.

"A lot of big things can happen from an opportunity like this," Deluy said. "Every opportunity is like a domino effect to my next destination in my career."

MIA grad and singer-songwriter Tyrone Traher II, known professionally as Paris Monroe, said he likes to do memorable events.

"Being an artist selected for this event is a true honour," Traher said. "Every time I perform, I like it to

be a life-changing experience for my audience."

Traher said this is a great way to showcase his artistry to others.

"For me personally, I just want to put on the best show that I can and try to make it unforgettable," Traher said.

Hurs said that before, they used to do this event in Toronto, but due to the pandemic, they stopped. He added that the pandemic changed many things in downtown Toronto, where they used to do the event.

"This would have been our 20th year doing this event in Toronto," Hurs said. "It has become

fragmented in that venues are now scattered all over. There's no one real centralized place."

Hurs said he is excited to do this event in London because businesses and venues are centrally located and "easily walkable." He added that much talent is emerging from London and he hopes to support that.

"When we give a stage to an artist, they gain confidence. When they gain confidence, they do better and greater things; when they do that, they are open to trying more," Hurs said.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at [indieweek.com](http://indieweek.com).

## Endless laughter with *Kim's Convenience* at The Grand



**Zoë Alexandra King**  
(she/her)  
INTERROBANG

As someone who had never watched the Canadian classic sitcom *Kim's Convenience* on CBC, I wasn't entirely sure what I was in for when I attended this play on Oct. 22. Although I had some insight into what to expect due to my preview article, nothing could have prepared me for the endless laughs that were to come when watching this production.

If you didn't read my preview, you may not know that the writer of the show Ins Choi starred as the main character, Mr. Kim or "Appa" (Korean for "father"). As Choi took to the Sprit Stage, he showed the audience that he wasn't only a skilled writer, but also a talented actor.

The curtains open on a convenience store with Mr. Kim (Choi) going through his usual morning routine which includes looking out for illegal parking outside his store.

The stage represents a true convenience store with its range of items from food items to magazines to school supplies. The attention to detail played a memorable role in this play, right down to the bell chime sound effect when the door for the store opened.

The entire play takes place inside the store. Even when the mother

(Vicki Kim) comes to visit the son Jung (Leon Qin) at the church, it was still the convenience store behind them, and the only difference was the dimmed lights. From my understanding, this production showed that there are so many different aspects of life that can take place in the same setting.

Actor Emeka Agada, who played Alex, also played the role of a few characters. In the beginning, he is introduced to the audience as a potential investor that placed an offer on Mr. Kim's store. Later, Agada portrays a shoplifter in the store while Mr. Kim explains to daughter Janet (Kelly J Seo) some "important business lessons" for when she takes over the store, keeping his legacy alive. Lastly, Agada returns to the stage as a policeman and Jung's friend, who also ends up dating Janet.

With a total running time of 90 minute, this play brought so many stories to life while keeping the audience laughing throughout.

From Mr. Kim's dilemma over whether or not to sell his business, to Jung going to church with his mother, to Mr. Kim pushing his dream onto Janet, to Alex and Janet beginning their love story, and finally Mr. Kim and Jung's reconnection, each situation was touching. I think my favourite part was when Mr. Kim realized that Alex and Janet were thinking about one another in a romantic way. This was hilarious as he forced them to kiss right



CREDIT: DAHLIA KATZ

The modern Canadian classic, *Kim's Convenience* returns to the stage in London. Pictured: Ins Choi (left) and Kelly J Seo (right).

in front of him and everyone could feel the secondhand embarrassment that Janet faced.

This lighthearted comedy gave an

inside look into the Kim family that anyone in the audience was likely to relate to. The beautiful thing about this production was that some of the

scenarios that members of the Kim family faced were heartbreaking, but in the end, they always worked out any conflicts that arrived.

# The constant pain of grocery shopping amid high inflation



**Gracia Espinosa (she/her)**  
INTERROBANG

Nothing escapes inflation. From fresh vegetables and fruit to frozen beef, consumers are juggling to fill their shopping baskets.

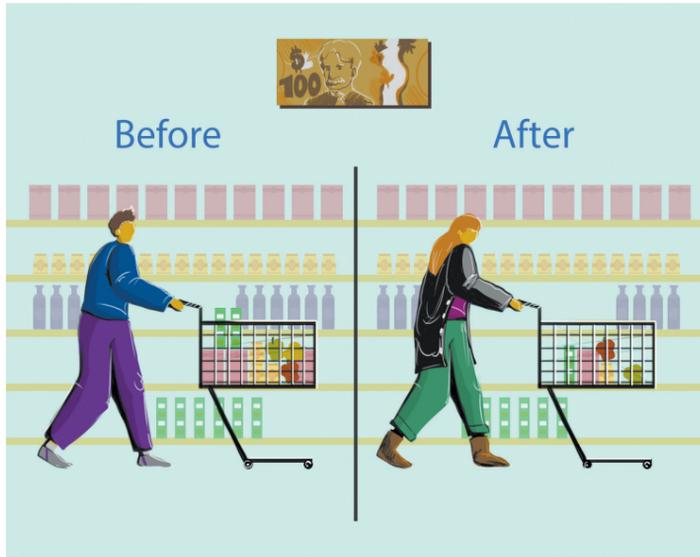
Libya Andrade, currently pursuing postgraduate certificate in project management at Fanshawe College, said that young people like her are experiencing a real challenge when it comes to affording food.

“Essential products like eggs, milk, and bread have higher levels of inflation in Canada than they’ve ever had in years,” said Andrade.

She mentioned that many of her friends of the same age need help to stick to their budget. In fact, according to the annual HungerCount 2023 report, of the 681,292 reported visits to Food Banks Canada in Ontario, 19 per cent were from people between the ages of 18 and 30. Locally, in only the first eight months of 2023, the food bank in London helped an average of 5,287 families per month, equivalent to 12,632 individuals. It marks a 43 per cent increase when compared to the same period last year.

As the coordinator and a professor in the Lawrence Kinlin School of Business, Angela Reid-Regier pointed out that rising food costs in Canada are due to various factors. One of the main factors she mentioned was the war in the Ukraine.

“The biggest issue for Canada is the fertilizer that comes from Ukraine,” Reid-Regier explained. “If we don’t have fertilizer, our yields in our crops are meager.



CREDIT: MAURICIO FRANCO

The inflation that the country is currently experiencing has made filling the shopping basket more expensive.

And we were then needing help to get additional wheat from the Ukraine. So that plays a part. And then our crude oil and natural gas prices have increased because of the [war].”

The second factor, she said, is the pandemic. Almost four years since the appearance of the COVID-19 virus, agricultural machinery manufacturers are still trying to catch up with orders. It has caused commodity prices to rise as farmers struggle to obtain new combine harvesters or tractors. Additionally, workers are more necessary than ever in the agricultural industry, according to Reid-Regier.

Another issue is the Canadian dollar has decreased in value.

“Our dollar has decreased by about 10 per cent. And that means anything we buy from the United States is 10 per cent higher.”

That means transporting all the fruits and vegetables to Canadians during the off-season is costly.

And finally, she said, extreme weather and climate change is also impacting food cost. Forest fires and droughts caused a myriad of food shortages this past summer.

“The less supply there is, the more demand is, and the price goes up in the States, and they’ve had even more issues. There was a virus last winter that went through their vegetables, and it impacted overall lettuce and tomatoes.”

The next time you’re pinching pennies at the grocery store, consider that there are several factors at play making food more expensive than ever. Budgeting, shopping locally, and price matching might be some small ways to save money at the grocery store.

# Fanshawe student shares struggle to afford college life



**Mia Rosa-Wayne (she/her)**  
INTERROBANG

In the face of escalating costs, college students are finding it harder to afford the simple things.

As the fall semester nears its end, students may find themselves yearning for the full college experience including social events, extracurricular activities alongside the academic journey.

However, being in college can be tricky when it comes to finances and wanting to live the full college experience. Whether it comes to food, housing, gas, or tuition it’s almost impossible to afford anything on your own.

Asking students how they budget in school is important to look at because students are constantly surrounded by opportunities to spend money, whether it’s an invite to the bar or an offer to grab lunch after class.

Fanshawe student Nicole Steinhoff said her past two years of budgeting while in school have been challenging.

“Paying \$650 a month for rent plus groceries, gas and other expenses is extremely hard while being at school. There is no easy way to save money while being away from home and not having the extra help especially with how expensive everything is now.”

Steinhoff had to make some rules for herself to save money.

“Some things I do to help me save are not going out with friends during the week. I also walk three blocks every day because a parking pass at Fanshawe is over \$600 a year and that’s only if you’re able to get one.”

The financial costs Canadian students face have only been increasing over the years.



CREDIT: MIA ROSA-WAYNE

Affording life as a student sometimes means making sacrifices.

Steinhoff explained that rent is her biggest payment while in school, and that she works a part-time job to help afford living.

“I also work at Boston Pizza on the weekends to help me pay for gas and food costs throughout the week.”

It’s understandable that school is important, however it becomes a tricky decision in needing to give up some personal interests and taking responsibility growing up. Work while in school is definitely recommended so you can stay on top of everything and be able to afford those personal interests while in school.

“I would recommend packing lunches instead of buying lunches at school, is also a better and affordable way of budgeting your money so you’re not seeing it disappear quickly.”

Setting yourself a budget plan is one of the best things you can do for yourself if you’re a student. It will gain you financial stability, avoid debt and set financial goals for yourself.

# London Public Library program offers students free access to professional equipment



**Finch Neves (he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

The London Public Library is best known for its wide selection of books, but hidden behind the towering rows of biographies, novels, and memoirs is something special: The Labs.

Located in the Central Branch at 251 Dundas St., The Labs are a collection of separate workspaces with professional grade equipment. Workspaces available include a media lab, vinyl cutter, sewing station, video editing station, button maker, 3D printer, digitization station, and a fully functional recording studio. While not every piece of equipment that could be used is present, the library has provided far more than the basics to guarantee that the spaces are of a professional quality.

For students looking to start a business with their skills, but lacking the equipment necessary, The

Labs are a blessing. Time can be booked to use the spaces within library hours, so long as the user has a library card, government issued ID, and is more than 13 years old. For many who are still honing their skills, there may be a barrier past equipment alone, which the library has solutions for as well.

Classes on the software and equipment used within the spaces are offered frequently and there is often a volunteer tech tutor on site.

“It is awesome! We have a test on Avid Pro Tools in our program, but only a few of the computers have it, so it can be hard to practice. The Labs not only has it, but also has free classes I can take on the program,” said Alex Mclean, a Fanshawe student who frequently makes use of both the recording studio and 3D printer.

While no equipment is needed to use the workspaces, some do require you to come prepared, or offset the cost. The 3D printer workstation requires the use of a filament that the library provides in exchange for a \$1 base price



CREDIT: FINCH NEVES

The London Public Library offers a program allowing users access to professional equipment for a multitude of creative endeavors, free of charge.

plus 10 cents per gram used. The sewing workspace also requires you to bring your own fabrics.

“The 3D printer is great. All I need to do is email them a file and they handle the rest. The price for the filament is way less than it would be for me to buy it and that is not even considering the price of the 3D printer itself,” Mclean said.

The Labs opened in 2018 and have been available since, with the exception of closures due to the pandemic. The library constantly updates existing workspaces and is always working to add new ones for the public. For students, The Labs can be an invaluable tool that allow them to start their own businesses without needing to invest in equipment

or software, which for many can be an immovable hurdle.

Whether you experiment with 3D printing, video editing, or even creating original music, the London Public Library has the tools for the job. You can find out more by visiting their website and checking the Featured Spaces section of their Services and Spaces header.

# The landscape of retail shopping ahead of the holiday season



**Justin Koehler**  
(he/him)  
INTERROBANG

The economy and inflation will be two of the biggest words heard ahead of this holiday season.

Many across the city are looking to pinch those pennies as they get ready for the busiest portion of the year when it comes to shopping and spending.

Store workers and retail employees directly see just how the shopping space has changed over the past few years, coming out of a pandemic and now heading into an economic spiral.

With interest rates, grocery prices, gas, housing, and more all on the rise, many across London may be thinking twice about where they're putting their dollars to use.

"I felt that it's definitely come back to pre-pandemic levels," said Mind Games store manager Alex Drouin. "I'd say shopping has been much more dictated by the economy as of late with prices in general going up across the board. We're seeing a bit of a slowdown in retail that, I would say, is non-necessary or non-important goods."

Drouin said that spending isn't the only thing that has primarily changed over the past couple years and that, surprisingly, store employees have been seeing some positive changes in the landscape of retail sales.

"Oddly enough, one of the biggest things that have come out if you see there is an overall difference in positivity. It's strange, but I find it's made more people conscious about how they treat people in a retail space and how they act with each other out in public. We're also seeing a lot more conscientious shoppers, which is surprising to see."

Even with the economy in Canada seeing some harder times, Drouin talked about how the space was already undergoing a drastic change prior.

"You're seeing a bit of a decline in physical retail sales. The online shopping space has been growing exponentially in the last five to 10 years, it's really changed the way things work. Of course, trends are always changing."

Drouin also noted a few observations he's made alongside the increase in online shopping and declining retail spending.

"Malls are all getting a little smaller and emptier, but a lot of strip malls and outdoor shopping seem to be picking up, which is really different from about 20 years ago."

Looking ahead to the holiday season, Drouin said that he's still expecting a successful season for his store, with the holidays remaining to be unchanged by global and national trends.

"We're anticipating probably the same amount of volume, if not a little bit better than last year," Drouin said.

"We saw that the typical Christmas



CREDIT: JUSTIN KOEHLER

White Oaks Mall is getting prepared for the holiday season including their board game store, Mind Games.

shopping cycle that seems to pick up mid to early October may not boom into full spring, at least in shopping malls in London, until more around November last year. We're hoping it'll come a bit sooner, people already seem to be out there and spending ahead of the season, so we're hoping it's going to be good."

He said that, no matter what, the holiday season will always remain vital and necessary for both shoppers and retail stores.

"Fourth quarter of the year is still where it's at for retail sales. Lots of businesses live and die by having an excellent holiday season, that's not going to change anytime soon."

While the economy has been worsening, people have less money to spend, and retail sales are overall still working to recover, holiday shopping isn't going anywhere.

Londoners can still expect to have plenty of gift options for their family and friends in stores, malls, and online this holiday season.

## Paramedics and mental health: A closer look



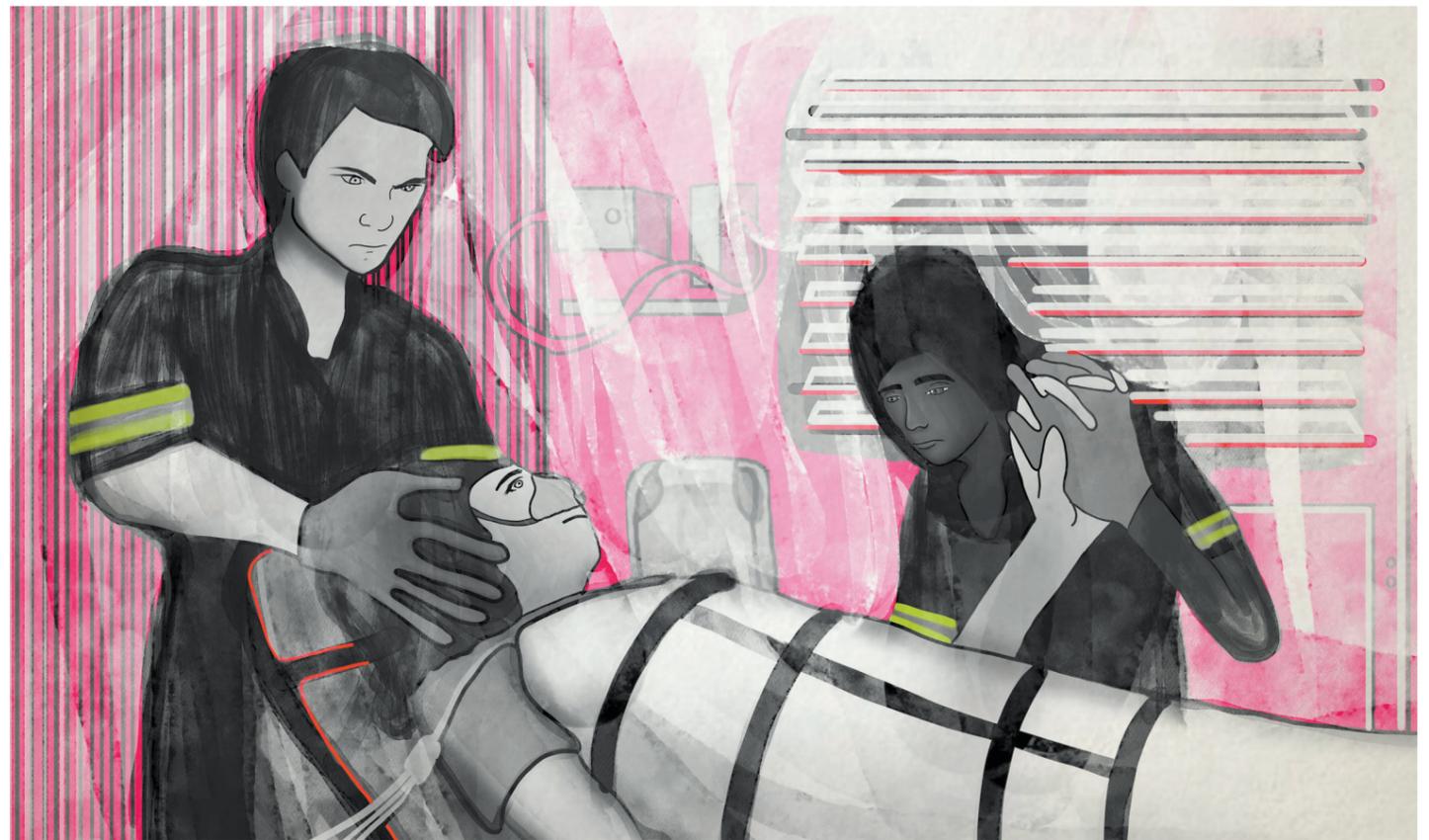
**Konstantinos Drossos**  
(he/him)  
INTERROBANG

There is a saying that states that things in our work life should be left at work and not thought about at home during off hours, but for some, that's easier said than done. Many lines of work, involve high amounts of stress and intense situations, requiring employers to be on the clock 24/7, with little to no time to rest.

In the paramedic workforce, for example, employers have mental health services available at any time for workers to use in a time of crisis. Paramedics, alongside other first-responder groups, are on the frontlines of some of the most intense and grim situations. They are exposed to things that most would not be able to handle or see things that are very emotionally straining.

Paramedics have reported heightened anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as detrimental factors of their work. At the Middlesex-London Emergency Medical Services (MLEMS), they offer a diverse number of programs for their medical personnel who are in need of help during a crisis.

Samantha Vollick, the Public Education Coordinator from MLEMS gave insight as to what kinds of programs they offer to their medical personnel when they are going through a time of need.



CREDIT: CALEIGH REID

Paramedics go through a lot mentally, and that's why there are so many practices in place to help them manage their emotions.

"We have a peer support team," she said. "We do training on mental health support, after-hours calls we do debriefing with the peer support member who's trained in critical incident stress management. We also have a psychologist who is on board with us that we should have referrals to in order to help support someone in immediate crisis."

With paramedics working under pressure many hours at a time, they are moving on from case to case at a rapid pace. Many of them are just taking patients to the hospital, dropping them off then moving onto their next call, never knowing what happens to the person they were helping. So, in an effort to offer closure for paramedics who wanted

to learn of the well-being of the people they helped, Survivors Day was created. The day connects with survivors with the paramedics who saved them, giving both parties the chance to gain closure over a traumatic event.

"It's always a very positive day. You don't usually have a lot of follow up with patients after we drop

them off at the hospital. So, I know it does have a positive impact," Vollick said.

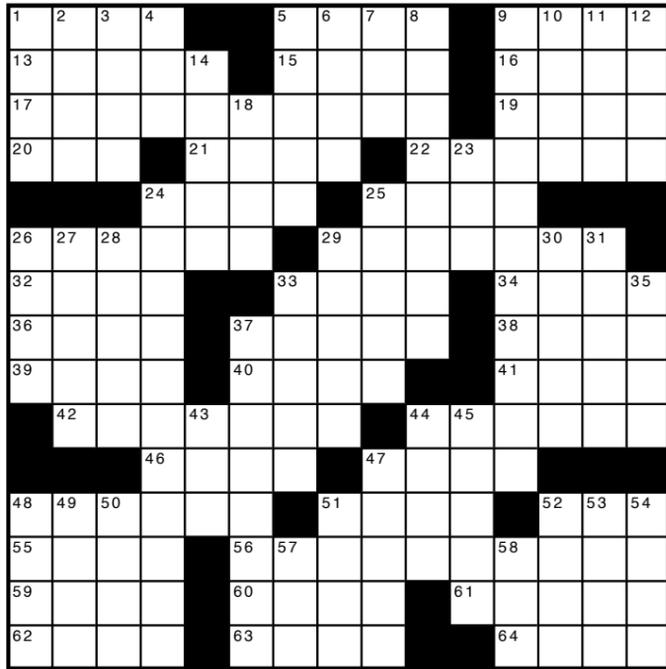
Despite having thick skin, there's only so much one's mind can bear. A work environment, of any kind, is a community that looks after and takes care of their own, and paramedics do an incredible job of this.

**CROSSWORD**

"Show me the Money" by Allen Vaughan

**ACROSS**

- 1. Cowshed
- 5. Deneb or Antares
- 9. Actor/comedian Rogen
- 13. 16-A greeting
- 15. \_\_\_ Krishna
- 16. Honolulu's island
- 17. \*Purveyors of Trefoils and Tagalongs
- 19. IT client
- 20. Hovel
- 21. Tumbrel
- 22. It may be the subject of a search
- 24. Expense
- 25. Alternative to Liz or Betty
- 26. Without wrinkles
- 29. Ovaltine ring, e.g.
- 32. Come to a standstill
- 33. Categorize
- 34. Center line
- 36. Component
- 37. Adds to the payroll
- 38. Casino game
- 39. DVR introduced in 1999
- 40. Premed course, shortly
- 41. Approximately
- 42. The "C" in New York's GCS
- 44. \_\_\_ down the hatches
- 46. Skirt length
- 47. Long story
- 48. Flatware items
- 51. Lacking color
- 52. Vegas or Cruces opener
- 55. Garb for Giselle
- 56. Refusing a contract offer, or what all the starred answers are doing
- 59. Discharge
- 60. Brainchild
- 61. What some buds do
- 62. Laundry
- 63. Soil amendment
- 64. Road sign



**DOWN**

- 1. Bases on the diamond
- 2. Came to earth
- 3. Golf's McIlroy
- 4. Org. that awards the Stanley Cup
- 5. Insufficient
- 6. Like the prose in a good thriller
- 7. Museum display
- 8. They may be last
- 9. \*Home to the Crazy Horse Memorial
- 10. Alleviate
- 11. At another time
- 12. Impair
- 14. Formal neckwear
- 18. Currency
- 23. From \_\_\_ Z
- 24. \*Venomous reptile of the SE US
- 25. Special Forces headgear
- 26. Close
- 27. Like the Bangles' Monday
- 28. Green shade
- 29. Trump resort in Miami
- 30. Bring to bear
- 31. Cycle preceding spin
- 33. Part of Egypt in Asia
- 35. Part of ASAP
- 37. Adversity
- 43. Element in solder
- 44. Indonesian island
- 45. Broker
- 47. Egypt's president in the 70's
- 48. Crockpot concoction
- 49. Big cat
- 50. Redding of song
- 51. Defendant's statement
- 52. Gone astray
- 53. Type of insurance
- 54. Flight part
- 57. Piece from Keats
- 58. Propane

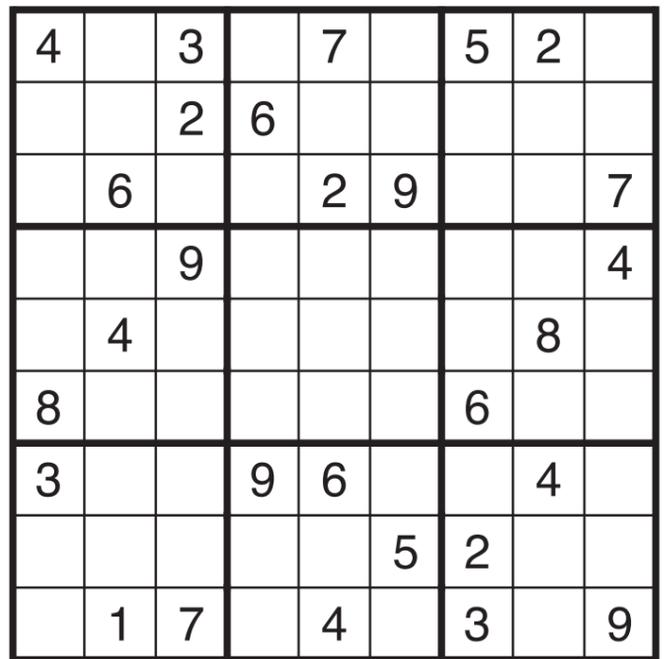
**WORD SEARCH**



**WORLD CURRENCIES PAST & PRESENT**

Ruble	Yen	Rupee	Krone	Pound
Baht	Riyal	Franc	Zloty	Shekel
Real	Rouble	Lempira	Dinar	Lira
Dollar	Peso	Forint	Yuan	Rupiah

**SUDOKU**



Puzzle rating: Medium

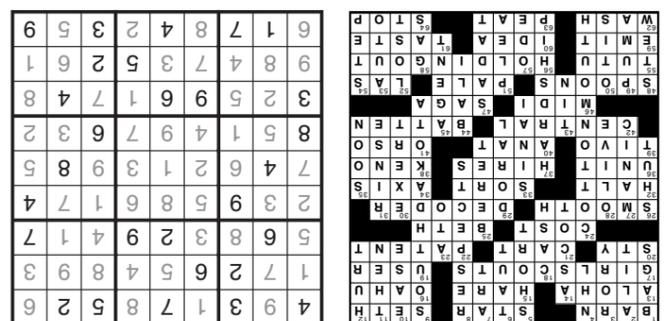
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9. That means no number is repeated in any column, row or box.

**CRYPTOGRAM**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
			22									20	10	12											7

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 6 25 22 7      21 4 1 8 20      10 12 6      6 12  
 25 1 19 22      20 12 10 22 7      15 12 5      6 25 22  
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 25 11 10 2 5 7      6 11 6      3 1 5  
 8 6 24      10 22 19 22 5      1      26 5 12 9 4 22 20  
 ”

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



"They claim not to have money for the poor; homeless and hungry; but war? It's never a problem." — David Icke

**FREE INTERROBANG**

NEW ISSUE ON STANDS

**Bi-Weekly**

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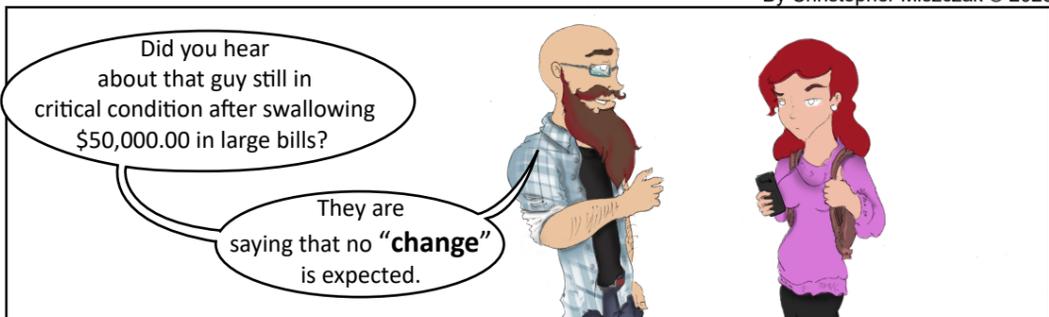
FSU INTERROBANG

The Life of a Bank Card

Created by Briana Brissett



By Christopher Mischczak © 2023

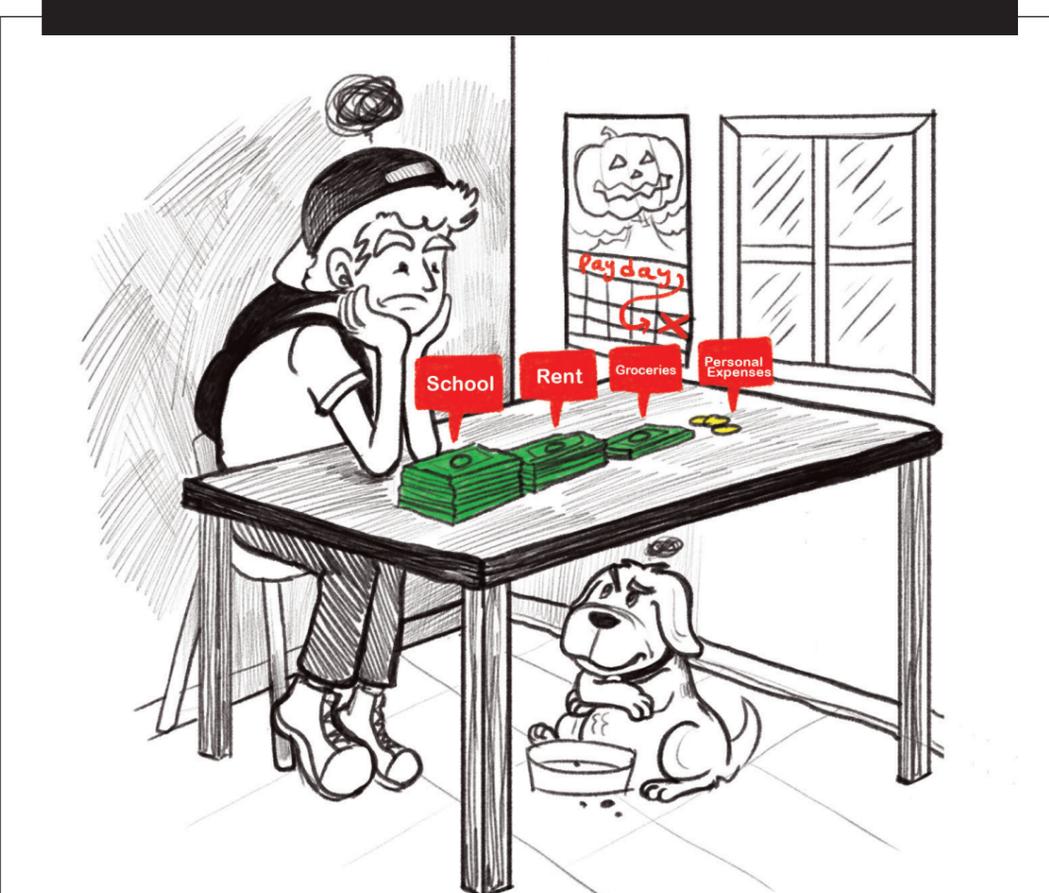


Freshman Fifteen



By Alan Dungo

Butt sweat n Tears by Andres Silva



Editorial Cartoon by Mauricio Franco

# Horoscopes

## Aries

Do what you can but don't let anyone pressure you to take on more than you can handle. It's better to do less than to take on additional responsibilities and fall short. Know your limits and maintain boundaries. You'll receive false information that will cloud your vision and point you in the wrong direction. Distance yourself from anyone who passes along fake news. Be a good listener and you'll receive information to help you avoid a touchy emotional issue.

## Taurus

Spice things up this week and enjoy yourself. Spending time with someone special will lead to conversations that impact your subsequent actions. Welcome a change and embrace the future with optimism. A change will boost your confidence and prompt you to take advantage of an exciting suggestion. An enthusiastic attitude will raise your profile and attract allies. Express your feelings, it will help you build a closer union with the people who count. Be careful not to overdo or jeopardize your reputation. Avoid temptation and indulgence.

## Gemini

Don't reveal personal information easily. Familiarize yourself with every aspect of a project you want to pursue. Be suspicious of pie-in-the-sky offers. Take time to organize and prepare. You'll find it easier to deter interference if you leave nothing to chance. Distance yourself from anyone trying to entice you to participate in something that isn't important to you. Concentrate on your needs, not someone else's. Clear up a misunderstanding with a friend. It's best to be upfront to ensure no one broadsides you with a change of plans. Recognize and decline an offer that can infringe on your emotional well-being.

## Cancer

Rely on your resources to help you get things done quickly, and a chance meeting with someone with something to offer will transpire. A suggestion will lead to a physical improvement that makes your life easier. Address situations that are confusing. When in doubt, take a pass. Don't limit what you can do by setting boundaries; collect your thoughts and clarify your position. Use your ingenuity, and you'll devise a spot-on plan that is easy to apply to a situation you encounter. Someone will take advantage of you if given the chance. Be skeptical of anyone trying to tempt or pressure you into something indulgent or costly.

## Leo

Emotions will be close to the surface this week. Dodge an argument by keeping your comments to yourself and putting space between you and those who upset you. Your power is your ability to try and get things done on time. Stay fixated on what's important to you and refuse to let anyone get the better of you. Take nothing for granted and make truth your objective. Private matters will surface if you let someone speak on your behalf. Be direct regarding where you stand and what you plan to do next. Giving in to pushy people will not help you reach your goal. Do what's best for you.

## Virgo

Get a head start on projects and you'll gain ground. A kind gesture will win points and encourage good results when building support. A change of scenery or a word with someone in a powerful position will help you gain ground. Be careful not to offer time or money to someone taking advantage of your devotion or beliefs. Go to great lengths to find the truth, even if it isn't what you want to hear. Take the stage and spread the word. Your insight and knowledge will help others make better choices based on your experience. Be a leader, not a follower and you'll differentiate yourself from the crowd.

## Libra

Do whatever it takes to keep the peace. Concentrate on home improvements and a healthy lifestyle, and you'll deter anyone from complaining or criticizing you. Speak from the heart but don't exaggerate to get your point across, or someone will do their best to make you look bad. Check out an interest you have, and you'll figure out what to do next. Take care of your responsibilities and live up to your promises, and you will avoid an emotional scene. Look for an opportunity to lower your debt and secure your lifestyle. Mingle with people with something to offer and you'll gain insight into a position that interests you.

## Scorpio

Jump on an opportunity to align yourself with someone who shares your motives and it will help you make a difference. A meeting or reunion will offer insight into new possibilities. Don't offer to pay for others or donate to something foreign to you. Emotional manipulation will mess with your mind if you let someone take liberties. Set boundaries and let your intuition guide you. Share your thoughts and you'll inspire someone with something to contribute to your cause. A vivid imagination will paint a picture that is hard to ignore. Don't let a change someone makes disrupt your plans. Take the high road and proceed.

## Sagittarius

Consider your options and talk to someone in a position of authority to ensure you are heading in the right direction. Question anyone using manipulative tactics, and you'll recognize if they plan to take you for granted. Plant your feet firmly on the ground and clarify your position. Friendships will undergo change that require your immediate attention. Don't ignore critical issues. Review any medical issues and address any changes that need your attention. A force may be necessary if you face opposition. The only way to gain the upper hand is to follow your heart and do what's best for you. Pay attention to the details.

## Capricorn

Nothing is impossible if you give it your best shot. Your ability to initiate and complete whatever you take on will astound onlookers and position you for victory. Believe in yourself, and the skies are the limit. Go easy on others to avoid disappointment or damage to your credibility. Be kind and understanding, and you'll maintain your status quo. Opportunity knocks. Be ready to take advantage of whatever comes your way, and the outcome will help you bring about positive change. Handle adversity with compassion and charm. Be a straight shooter and stand up for your rights and beliefs.

## Aquarius

Take a breather, sit back, and rethink how you want to move forward. An honest look at your options will help you envision your next move. Don't let anyone dictate what's best for you. Take responsibility, rely on common sense, and forge ahead. Someone will withhold information from you. Do your research, and you'll discover who you can trust and what's best and next for you. A change of heart will set you free and allow you to collect your thoughts and do as you please. Overreacting will be your demise. Take a moment to consider the consequences before you say or do something you regret.

## Pisces

Go over your expenditures and make your money work for you. Getting rid of debt will ease your mind and help you gain perspective on what's important to you. A minimalist approach will help you wrap your head around what's necessary. If given the chance, someone will take advantage of you. Joint accounts will cause concern and can hurt your relationship. You'll get a good sense of what's possible this week. Firm an offer or request something you want, and you will gain peace of mind. A special friend will require attention this week. Make sure you give them the time they need.

BI-WEEKLY STANDINGS



**Women's Volleyball**  
OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
ST. CLAIR	3	3	0	6
NIAGARA	3	3	0	6
HUMBER	2	2	0	4
MOHAWK	4	3	1	6
CONESTOGA	3	2	1	4
REDEEMER	4	2	2	4
CAMBRIAN	4	1	3	2
SHERIDAN	2	0	2	0
<b>FANSHAW</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
BOREAL	4	0	4	0

**Men's Volleyball**  
OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
<b>FANSHAW</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
NIAGARA	3	3	0	6
CONESTOGA	3	2	1	4
ST. CLAIR	3	2	1	4
CAMBRIAN	4	2	2	4
HUMBER	2	1	1	2
MOHAWK	4	1	3	2
BOREAL	4	1	3	2
REDEEMER	4	1	3	2
SHERIDAN	2	0	2	0

**Women's Basketball**  
OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
LAMBTON	3	3	0	6
ST. CLAIR	2	2	0	4
HUMBER	1	1	0	2
NIAGARA	3	2	1	4
<b>FANSHAW</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
MOHAWK	2	1	1	2
REDEEMER	3	1	2	2
SHERIDAN	3	0	3	0
CONESTOGA	3	0	3	0

**Men's Basketball**  
OCAA West Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PTS
MOHAWK	3	3	0	6
ST. CLAIR	2	2	0	4
NIAGARA	3	2	1	4
SHERIDAN	3	2	1	4
LAMBTON	3	2	1	4
<b>FANSHAW</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
HUMBER	2	1	1	2
CANADORE	2	0	2	0
CONESTOGA	3	0	3	0
REDEEMER	3	0	3	0

Printed standings are reflective of November 1, 2023.

Visit [www.ocaa.com](http://www.ocaa.com) to keep up-to-date on all OCAA stats.

# Five seasons draw to a close in four days



CREDIT: JUSTIN KOEHLER/FANSHAW ATHLETICS

Men's and women's soccer, women's softball, men's baseball, and men's golf have now all closed their seasons.



**Justin Koehler (he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

Over the course of a four-day span, five Fanshawe Falcons' seasons came to a close.

The teams that finished their seasons include the men's and women's soccer teams, the men's baseball team, the women's softball team, as well as the men's golf team.

Of those five teams, just one made it beyond the OCAA provincial championships.

The sixth ranked women's soccer team finished their season on Oct. 18 and were defeated 3-2 in their tough qualifying match against the third ranked Mohawk Mountaineers.

The game would see the Falcons leading after the first half, but they were unable to hold on and were outshot 17-9 by the end of the match.

The fourth ranked men's baseball team would fall the next day, being defeated by the fifth ranked Centennial Colts 6-3 in their quarterfinal match.

The Colts would get ahead in the first inning and, even though the Falcons would claw back some runs, the team was never able to take the lead once throughout the game.

The women's softball team would fall later that day, with the fourth ranked team falling to the fifth ranked Mohawk Mountaineers 9-2.

The team came ahead in the fourth inning after holding the Mountaineers scoreless, but fell behind in the fifth after giving up two runs and then gave up seven more in the following two innings.

On Oct. 21, the men's golf team headed out to Quebec for the CCAA national championships after taking home the silver medal at the OCAA provincial championships.

At nationals, the team finished sixth and finished five strokes ahead of the seventh place Georgian College.

Later that same evening, the men's soccer team would fall to the number one ranked and undefeated George Brown Huskies.

Again, the team would jump ahead early, scoring in the first half, but would give up the lead in the second half to fall 2-1 in the match.

Following those five teams wrapping up their seasons, just one more

set of teams remain in the summer/fall group, that being the men's and women's cross-country teams.

The teams have advanced to the CCAA national championships after both placing second at the provincial championships. The OCAAs were highlighted by Katie Rice, who has now won her second consecutive provincial gold medal finish. The two teams now head out to Nova Scotia to show their stuff on the national stage, heading out east on Nov. 11.

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BOG.student@FanshaweC.ca

**Tyler Harcourt**

Student Representative to The Board of Governors

# Fuel *Call of Duty* team go undefeated in regular season



**Alex Allan  
(he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

The Fuel Esports team had seven wins and zero losses in their division. The *Call of Duty* (CoD) team has been playing in the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) Open Premiere division. The Fuel team was going to face Fisher College on Oct. 25 but Fisher ended up forfeiting the match.

This resulted in a final 7-0 in their regular season before moving into playoffs. The start date for the playoffs is still to be announced. Two former Fuel CoD players have been watching the current team closely. Cameron “Airzee” Ayres played on the Fuel CoD team last year. He mentioned that he had high hopes for this current roster.

“Fanshawe is one of the hardest working teams and has been since their inaugural season and it’s nice to see that work pay off this past regular season” Ayres said.

Ayres said he thought the Fuel team was going to be one of the most dynamic in NACE. His reason for that was because of the two additional players, SUS and KMC, who came from University of Windsor and St. Clair respectively.

“They both bring unique styles of play to their respective roles that I believe compliment Frost and Bonk very well,” he said.

Ayres thought that the team worked well off each other on respawns which he thinks was a big factor for Fuel dominating on hardpoint, and search and destroy. All matches are a best three out of five and the first three matches are all different game modes. The first



CREDIT: JACOB WHITE

Sus (left), Bonk (middle left), Frost (middle right), and KMC (right) go undefeated in regular season matches and are looking ahead to playoffs.

game mode is hardpoint where players have to spend the most time on certain areas on the map. It’s similar to a king of the hill style.

Game mode two is a search and destroy style where you only have one life in each round and there is an attacking side and defending side in a battle of trying to plant a bomb. Game mode three is called control where each team has 30 lives and there are two static spots on the map where you have to keep gaining control of with another attacking and defending sided battle. If the game goes further from game mode three

the first two game modes will repeat in the starting order.

“The only issue I had wondered about which Fuel quickly squashed was team pacing with the high-flying SUS joining a new system of more tactical, methodical play,” Ayres said. “I thought about how his style would mesh with that of Frost’s but SUS proved he is very adaptable and I think that chemistry rode through the whole regular season,” he said.

Another former Fuel CoD member Sacha “Pupz” Kurucz who also helped coach the Fuel CoD teams

in the past had similar agreements with Ayres. Kurucz thought that the team meshed well with each other and thought that SUS and Frost had executed their roles well. Both Ayres and Kurucz were formerly sub-machine gun players which can be a complex role to play but they know what that role entails in matches.

“As someone who has played against SUS many times in the past I have first-hand experience of how annoying he can be to play against on the map and that’s exactly what is needed and he does it so perfectly on every map,” Kurucz said.

Ayres and Kurucz have been watching this team closely on how they have been performing. They will still be keeping watch on them as the current Fuel CoD team moves into playoffs.

“As long as the team can stick to their game and play how they can, I see now issues with this roster continuing their success into the playoffs,” Kurucz said.

“I think Fuel fans should be super confident in this team to not just do well but to bring home the team’s first CoD trophy in program history,” Ayres said.

## Fuel *Apex Legends* team battles for first place



**Alex Allan  
(he/him)**  
INTERROBANG

The Fuel *Apex Legends* team has been competing in the Octane Collegiate league. It is an open league and Fuel has been facing the best collegiate *Apex* teams. *Apex Legends* is a battle royale style game, where the last team standing wins in the first-person shooter style game. The main roster for Fuel includes RustyG, EvilCanadian and PotatoMalone.

Russell “RustyG” Gubesch, who is taking civil engineering technology at Fanshawe said that the squad has started off well and was able to get eighth place in their first days of matches. They recently battled and were able to grab second place in the matches on Oct. 28.

“Our team does a great job of working through any problems we come across in game and deciding on how to overcome them to allow us to improve as a team,” Gubesch said.

Gubesch has been playing *Apex* for four years. He mentioned that what inspires him to keep playing is the drive to become one of the best players within *Apex Legends*. He also said

that the game is unique and different from other battle royale games.

“Competitive *Apex* is one of the most exhilarating games to play out of any title and the euphoric feeling of winning is what always keeps me coming back to play,” he said.

Gubesch strongly believes that their team will make it into the playoffs. They are currently two spots away from a playoff spot. He said that four weeks of matches still remain. He has full confidence that they will continue to have stronger performances going forward.

“The two strongest teams in our group are [The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)] and Butler Broncos Esports,” Gubesch said. “Both teams are mechanically talented and competing against them is always a tough battle.”

The team is also playing in another league called American Video Game League (AVGL) and more information is soon to come as matches start to ramp up.

In other Esports action, the Fuel *League of Legends* team has been on a tough start for matches. Connor “Conrad” Grayley mentioned that they have zero wins and two losses in the National Esports Collegiate Conference (NECC) champions division. “We believe we are a lot stronger than our records show,” Grayley



CREDIT: FANSHAWE FUEL

EvilCanadian (left), RustyG (middle) and PotatoMalone (right) battle in *Apex Legends* action and have a strong feeling they will make it into the playoffs.

said. “We are hoping to finally put some wins on the board.”

Grayley mentioned that he still has high hopes that they will make the playoffs and hopefully still make a good run. Grayley has been playing *League of legends* for nine

years. He played in amateur which is what kept him interested in playing competitively but retired about a year ago.

More Fuel Esports teams have been battling matches out the past few weeks. There have been

some big wins and some unfortunate losses but more information is soon to come on the Fanshawe Fuel Esport teams. Make sure to check out the Fuel Discord and socials to keep up with the latest announcements.



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